

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 6 and 9-11 are amended and Claims 12-17 are new. Support for the new and amended claims can be found in at least the original claims, in the specification at page 28, line 13 to page 30, line 7 and Fig. 6. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4, 6-7 and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 2002/0197955 (Witkowski) in view of JP 2001-112071 (Sugiura); and Claims 5 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Witkowski in view of Sugiura and further in view of U.S. 2001/0028297 (Hara).

A personal interview was conducted with the Examiners on May 5, 2009 to discuss Witkowski and Sugiura. Further, the features of the amendment to the claims submitted herewith were discussed. Applicant would like to thank the Examiners for their time in conducting an interview.

Amended Claim 1 recites:

An information providing apparatus for transmitting desired information to information equipment loaded on a vehicle, comprising:
communication means for sending and receiving desired data using radio communications; and
control means for monitoring a remote control signal from an electronic key corresponding to a key-less entry system for the vehicle via said communication means, for controlling operations of an information output means for storing said desired information and sending said desired information to said vehicle as well as operations of the communication means, wherein said control means starts up operations of said information output means using the remote control signal from said electronic key as a trigger to transmit said desired information to said vehicle, and **for controlling, when the remote control signal from said electronic key triggers said information output means to transmit said desired information to said vehicle, operations of an information input means for storing driving information transmitted from said vehicle.**

It is respectfully submitted that neither Witkowski nor Sugiura, either individually or in combination, teach or suggest control means for controlling, when the remote control signal from said electronic key triggers said information output means to transmit said desired data to said vehicle, operations of an information input means for storing driving information transmitted from a vehicle, as defined in amended Claim 1.

In particular, Witkowski merely describes transmitting media information to a vehicle or creating a transmission link for transmitting service diagnostic information from a vehicle to a notebook computer.¹ As noted in Witkowski with reference to the service diagnostic information, “the wireless data link may be created automatically as soon as the vehicle 14 enters a service bar or other designated area. The first RF transceiver 10a automatically begins transmitting diagnostics ... to the second RF transceiver 10b to begin the diagnostic testing.”² Witkowski fails to describe triggering a transmission of driving information from the vehicle when a remote control signal from an electronic key triggers an information output means as recited in amended Claim 1.

Moreover, new Claim 12 depends from Claim 1 and recites that the “driving information includes at least one of a driving time, a driving distance, and a driving area.” Witkowski is silent regarding transmitting driving information from the vehicle, where the driving information includes at least one of a driving time, a driving distance and a driving area.

None of the other cited references overcome the above-noted deficiencies of Witkowski in view of the claimed features of amended Claim 1 or new Claim 12.

Amended Claims 4, 6 and 9 and new Claims 13-15, although directed at different statutory classes and/or varying in scope, recite features similar to those noted above,

¹ See Witkowski, Figs. 1 and 2, paragraphs [0020] to [0021].

² Witkowski, Fig. 2 and paragraphs [0047] to [0048].

respectively, in amended Claim 1 and new Claim 12. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-15 are allowable over the cited references and the rejections over Witkowski in view of Sugiura should be withdrawn.

Additionally, new Claim 16 recites:

A vehicle, comprising:
a communication unit configured to receive a remote control signal from a locking mechanism of a door of the vehicle, the locking mechanism being configured to transmit the remote control signal when a key is inserted into the locking mechanism so as to cause the locking mechanism to lock;
a storage unit configured to store driving information and desired information; and
a control unit configured to transmit the driving information from the storage unit via the communication unit when the communication unit receives the remote control signal from the locking mechanism, and configured to receive desired information from an information storage unit remote from the vehicle via the communication unit when the communication unit receives the remote control signal from the locking mechanism and store the received desired information in the storage unit.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Witkowski nor Sugiura, either individually or in combination, teach or suggest a vehicle as defined in new Claim 16. In particular, neither of the cited references disclose or suggest a locking mechanism configured to transmit a remote control signal when a key is inserted into the locking mechanism so as to cause the locking mechanism to lock, where the remote control signal is a trigger to transmit driving information from the vehicle and receive desired information from an information storage unit remote from the vehicle. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that new Claim 16 and any claim dependent therefrom is allowed.

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Consequently, in light of the above comments, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome and the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

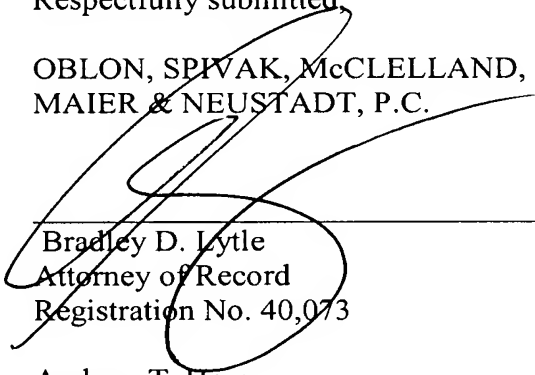
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